

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

YVONNE COPELAND • Director, Division of Child and Family Well Being

Date: March 18, 2022

Dear County Directors of Social Services

Attention: Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Managers and Supervisors

Subject: COVID-19 Food and Nutrition Services Waivers and Emergency Allotment for

April 2022 Approved for Extension

Priority: Information and Action

The Continuing Appropriations Act of 2021 and Families First Coronavirus Response Act allows states the option to continue certain waivers that have been approved during the Covid-19 pandemic. North Carolina requested to extend the following waivers which have been approved for a period of three months (April, May, and June 2022):

- Extend Six-Month Certification Periods
- Waive Interview Requirements
- Telephonic Signature Waiver
- Suspend Claims Activity
- Waive Fair Hearing Timeframes
- Extend Administrative Disqualification Hearing (ADH) Timeframes

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has also approved for NC to supplement April 2022 benefits up to the maximum allotment for their household size. Please refer to this Dear County Director Letter for general information and implementation instructions.

We will be providing additional guidance regarding the extension of these waivers and maximum allotments.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES • ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES

Due to the uncertainty of approval for continuation of the waivers, counties are strongly encouraged to begin refresher training for staff and planning to resume normal policy requirements effective with the end date of each waiver extension.

We encourage counties to use the previously issued <u>Guidebook</u> which includes transitioning strategies, policy sections for reference, and resources to assist families after waivers end for FNS and other social services programs. The Guidebook will be updated to reflect new waiver timelines.

We will continue to pursue any available waivers offered by USDA and will continue to keep you informed about updates related to FNS waivers.

Sincerely,



Madhu Vulimiri, MPP
Deputy Director
Division of Child and Family Well-Being

MV/vd

EFS-FNS-19-2022